

# RE: OSHA at US Ecology

Monday, March 18, 2019 10:07 AM

Subject	RE: OSHA at US Ecology
From	<a href="#">Kearns, David G. - OSHA</a>
To	Ball, Stephen
Sent	Tuesday, November 20, 2018 11:00 AM

Stephen,

Thanks for the info. If you or others feel you would like us on any follow up State Comm or other calls, let me know.

Because of the holiday and the weather coming in, our people from the OSHA Health Response Team are not planning to be here until early next week. Likely viewing the site Monday afternoon or Tuesday. Regarding the drums outside the building, you are correct that we have most interest in the contents of the magnesium drums. However, we will, at a minimum, be interested in the contents of the other drums in the area. This may be simply obtaining manifests for each drum.

We will continue to coordinate with Matt Kiddy of US Ecology as well.

I'm around the rest of today, and on leave tomorrow and Thursday, but available by cell phone if urgent  
(b) (6)

Thanks,

Dave

**From:** Ball, Stephen [<mailto:Ball.Stephen@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 8:00 AM

**To:** Kearns, David G. - OSHA

**Subject:** Re: OSHA at US Ecology

David,

Really appreciate the call yesterday and coordination between our agencies.

Operations began yesterday late afternoon on securing the drums outside of the building. That operation will continue today. There were no safety issues and I expect the operation to continue to go smoothly today.

I have asked US Ecology for a list of waste streams that they believe are inside the building. They have indicated to me verbally that there is nothing of immediate concern. Once they deliver the list and I agree with their assessment (and the exterior drum recovery op is complete) I will likely ramp down EPA's emergency response involvement and consider the site secure from a hazardous substance standpoint.

One question for you regarding the drums outside the building: They have asked that once they recover and secure the drums away from the building they would like to re-enter them into their respective waste stream storage areas. Question for you is do those wastes need to be kept separate from the rest of the facility wastes pending an investigation? The magnesium drums will be kept separate regardless as that material was involved in the accident.

Thanks again for the coordination.

Stephen Ball

EPA On-Scene Coordinator

(208) 530-9107

On Nov 19, 2018, at 4:00 PM, Kearns, David G. - OSHA <[Kearns.David@dol.gov](mailto:Kearns.David@dol.gov)> wrote:

Stephen,

I appreciate our call today. Sorry we didn't meet before an event like this. I used to participate in environmental crimes task force meetings at the US Attorney's conference room a couple times a year.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments.

We spoke with Matt Kiddy about the plan to address the remaining waste outside the building.

Tomorrow morning I will be on a call with our Health Response Team that has more experience with events like these. We will keep you informed.

NOTE: We may draft a site-control agreement if needed as well.

Regards,

Dave

208-321-2983 direct

*David Kearns*, MPA, CIH

Area Director

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